Auction of jewellery belonging to Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

*113. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FIANACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks are auctioning jewellery in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh which has been hypothecated by cotton growers; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such auctions that took place this years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The banks exhaust all avenues of recovery to safeguard their interests and enforce the securities available with them for this purpose within the period of law of limitation. Securities pledged with the banks, including jewellery, against the loans availed by the borrowers can be disposed off to realise the due in the manner stipulated in the loan agreements. The recovery of dues from the borrower is a normal banking activity and Government or Reserve Bank of India do not issue any instructions in this regard. The information with regard to the auctions of the pledged securities including jewellery made by the banks for recovery of their dues is not generated by the data reporting system. Similarly, the diltrict-wise data is not generated about the overdues for each category of loanees like those of cotton growers. However, the amount of overdues in the agriculture sector in the Districts of Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh as at the end of June, 1989 and June, 1990 was as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Districts	Amount of overdues	
	June 1989	June 1990
Guntur . . .	6226	5893
Prakasam . .	460	2740

Opening of new centres on the pattern of M.T.N.L.

*114. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new Centres which will be considered as next Maha Nagar Telephone Centres in India;

(b) what is the progress of the two M.N.T.Ls of Delhi and Bombay;

(c) whether these MTNLs are more progressive and effective than other telephone exchanges; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A Committee was set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri M. B. Athreya to recommend the most appropriate structure for the entire Department of Telcom. The Committee has submitted recommendations which are under consideration of the Government.

(b) Progress of M.T.N.L. in respect of certain important parametres is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) As per the studies conductd by Administrative Staff College of India the performance of MTNL is comparable to that of the other large telephone districts.

Statement

	As on 1-4-1986	As on 1-2-1993
1. Equipped Capacity :		
Delhi	3,36,800	7,34,500
Bombay	5,42,400	9,25,717
2. Direct Exchange Lines :		
Delhi	2,92,669	6,46,721
Bombay	4,53,989	8,28,569
3. Percentage of lines served from Electronic Exchanges :		
Delhi	23.75%	74.94%
Bombay	16.04%	59.81%

Besides, MTNL has introduced radio-paging service in Bombay and Voice-Mail service in both Bombay and Delhi.

* MTNL was formed w.e.f. 1-4-86.

India's debt servicing foreign exchange commitment

*115. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the debt servicing foreign exchange commitment for the year 1992-93; and

(b) what is the amount of outstanding external loans borrowed by India from other countries, International Financial Institutions and commercial non-Government Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The amount of debt servicing payment (Repayment of Principal and Payment of Interest) is estimated to be Rs. 17,418 crores during 1992-93.

(b) As per latest available information India's total external debt including NRI's deposits and short term debt is estimated to be U.S. $ 72672 million and Civilian Rouble debt of Rouble 978 million as on 30th September, 1992. Besides there was GCA and Rouble defence debt of US $ 2176 million and Rouble 8899 million respectively as on March 31, 1992.

Pending power projects of Madhya Pradesh

*116. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some power projects which are proposed to be extended in Madhya Pradesh have not been cleared so far;

(b) if so, what are the names of the power projects which are proposed to be set up in that State and are pending for the Forest/Environmental clearance;

(c) what are the names of the proposed power projects in that State which are awaiting approval of the Planning Commission; and

(d) what are the names of the projects that have been approved but are awaiting sanction of funds?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Yes, Sir.